

Sentences and Sentence Fragments A

2a. A **sentence** is a word or word group that contains a subject and a verb and that expresses a complete thought.

A **sentence fragment** is a word or word group that is capitalized and punctuated as a sentence but that does not contain both a subject and a verb or does not express a complete thought.

FRAGMENT Bears extremely protective of their young. [no verb]

FRAGMENT According to the film we saw. [incomplete thought]

SENTENCE According to the film we saw, bears are extremely protective of their young.

EXERCISE Identify each of the following groups of words as a sentence or a sentence fragment. On the line provided, write *S* for *sentence* or *F* for *fragment*.

Example F 1. Once frightened by a bear.

- 1. Bears are classified as carnivores, or meat eaters.
- 2. Also enjoy feeding on plants and honey.
- 3. Because they are myopic, or nearsighted.
- 4. Bears have difficulty seeing objects that are far away.
- 5. Their keen sense of hearing, which makes up for their limited vision.
- 6. Bears can identify sounds at a great distance.
- 7. Their most acute sense is that of smell.
- 8. The tracks left by the bear's prey.
- 9. The small prey unable to escape.
- 10. Bears are powerful predators.
- 11. The muscles in the upper part of a large bear's front legs.
- 12. Bears are native to four continents.
- 13. North America, South America, Europe, and Asia.
- 14. In North America, which includes the United States.
- 15. In North America live the brown bear, the grizzly bear, and the American black bear.
- 16. Alaska is the home of the largest brown bear, the kodiak bear.
- 17. The kodiak bear, which may reach a weight of about 1,700 pounds (780 kilograms) and a length of about 10 feet (3 meters).
- 18. Native to Asia is the Malayan sun bear.
- 19. The Malayan sun bear, smaller than any other species of bear.
- 20. Inhabiting the mountain forests of South America is the spectacled bear.